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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 10, 1865.—Referred to Special Committee on Impressments, and ordered to be printed.

[By the CHAIR.]

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT.

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 6, 1865.

To the House of Representatives:

In response to your resolution of the 19th November last, I herewith transmit a communication from the Secretary of War, which conveys the information desired, relative to the impressment of brandy, so far as the records of his office enable him to furnish it.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

COMMUNICATION OF SECRETARY OF WAR.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, }
War Department, }
Richmond, Va., January 5, 1865. }

To the President of the Confederate States:

Sir:—I have received the following resolution of the House of Representatives, referred by your Excellency to this Department:

“Resolved, That the President be respectfully requested to cause the proper officer to communicate to this House, copies of all orders which have been issued to impressing officers directing the impressment of brandy, and also to inform the House what quantity of brandy has been impressed, and what disposition has been made of it.”

In response, I have the honor to transmit herewith a report from the Commissary General, containing such information on the subject matter of the resolution, as the records of his Bureau enable him to furnish.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSARY GENERAL

In response to Resolution of House of Representatives of 19th November, 1864, concerning Impressment of Brandy in Virginia and North Carolina.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, }
Subsistence Department, }
 Richmond, January 3d, 1865. }

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON, *Secretary of War, C. S. A.:*

SIR: In reply to the resolution of the House of Representatives of 19th of November, 1864, communicated by you to me on the 22d of November, in reference to the Impressment of Brandy in the States of Virginia and North Carolina, I have the honor to submit the following report:

The impressment of brandy in these States was rendered necessary by the fact, that *all* the corn made in them being needed for the subsistence of the men and animals of the Army of Northern Virginia, none of it could be consumed in the manufacture of whiskey to be used as stimulant and in making vinegar; and the very limited means of transportation would not suffice to bring corn for that purpose from the Southern States.

The impressment was also strongly recommended by the Medical Director of the Army of Northern Virginia and the Surgeon General, on the grounds that the brandy was needed as a stimulant for men in hospital, and that the sale of it by citizens to the troops was producing most injurious results. (See letters enclosed.)

I enclose herewith copies of all orders which have been issued from this Bureau on the subject. I cannot state the quantity thus far impressed, as I have not been able to obtain the information from the officers in charge of the various districts. Report from one district in North Carolina shows the impressment of 6,858½ gallons, and the Depot Commissary in this city has received, from all sources in the two States, thus far, 11,793½ gallons. The quantity thus far received is so small, and so much less than it was expected the impressment would realize, that none of it can be issued as stimulant. It will by no means afford the needed supply of vinegar.

An arrangement has been made with the Medical Department, by which the officers of this Department are to impress for its officers such brandy as is indicated by them. It is not known what quantity has been impressed on their account.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

L. B. NORTHPROP,
 Comm'y General C. S. Army.

LETTER OF SURGEON GENERAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, }
Surgeon General's Office, }
 Richmond, Va., Sept. 30th, 1864. }

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to the following extract from a letter of Surgeon L. Guild, Medical Director A. N. V., and to request that authority be given to the proper officers, for the impressment of brandy in the localities suggested by Surgeon Guild, both as a sanitary measure, and as a means of supply of alcoholic stimulants for this department.

* * * * *

"An effort has been made, I understand, to secure this year's crop of apples for the purpose of making vinegar for the army, but it appears that the people in many sections of the country, have converted their apples into brandy, and in the vicinity of the army, especially in the southern portion of Virginia and the northern part of North Carolina, the pernicious practice of vending this highly injurious and unhealthy liquor to the soldiers, has been adopted. I would suggest, that all of this apple or peach brandy be seized by the Commissary and Medical Departments, and all that can be, should be converted into vinegar, and the rest used for the preparation of tinctures of tonic indigenous barks.

The Chief Commissary of the army is unable to furnish vinegar to the troops, in such quantity or of such quality as is necessary. I have had frequent conversations with him on this subject, and have urged the expediency of seizing the liquor which has been distilled from fruit, which should have been used for making vinegar.

Col. Cole informs me that he has found much difficulty in obtaining the authority requisite for the seizure, and I would ask that you place the matter before the Hon. Secretary of War, and use your own influence in accomplishing an object so important to the maintenance of the health and vigor of our army."

Very respectfully, your obd't servant,

S. P. MOORE, Surg. Gen. C. S. A.

Hon. JAS. A. SEDDON, Sec'y of War, Richmond, Va.

On the above were the following endorsements :

S. P. Moore, Surg. Genl. C. S. A.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 30th, 1864.

Calls the attention of the Hon. Secretary of War to an extract from letter of Surgeon Guild, Medical Director A. N. V., in relation

to impressment of apple and peach brandy in Southern Virginia and Northern N. Carolina.

To Com. General: What do you advise in relation to these articles? If impressment is to be made of them, it had better be done by your officers.

1st Oct. '64.

(Signed)

J. A. S.

BUREAU OF SUBSISTENCE, }
Richmond, October 4, 1864. }

Respectfully returned to the Hon. Sec'y of War. The C. G. S. has no objection to this impressment being made by the officers of this Department, and is clearly of opinion that the impressment should be made: it is, however, proper to state, that inasmuch as the law requires immediate payment to be made for all property impressed, from the lack of funds, the officers of this Department have been unable to impress articles of subsistence proper.

(Signed.)

L. B. NORTHROP, C. G. S.

To Com. Gen'l: If you impress for the Med. Bureau it may be able to furnish funds of its own; otherwise, you must send in requisition, and let the case be submitted to the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury.
8th Oct. 1864.

(Signed.)

J. A. S.

BUREAU OF SUBSISTENCE, }
Richmond, Oct. 11, 1864. }

Respectfully referred to Surg. General. This Bureau has no funds with which to make impressments of brandy and whiskey. If the Medical Bureau can furnish them, the officers of this Bureau will make the impressments.

(Signed.)

L. B. NORTHROP, C. G. S.

S. G. O., Oct. 15, 1864.

Respectfully returned to the Commissary General, with the information that the brandy will be paid for by the officers of this Department when delivered to them. The following Purveyors are designated as the proper officers to receive and pay for the brandy impressed by the Commissary Department:

	Surgeon	E. W. JOHNS, Richmond, Va.
	"	JNO. CLOPTON, Danville, Va.
	"	R. K. TAYLOR, Lynchburg, Va.
Assistant	"	W. B. ROBERTSON, Wytheville, Va.
	"	JAS. T. JOHNSON, Charlotte, N. C.

(Signed.)

S. P. MOORE, Surgeon Gen'l C. S. A.

COPY OF TELEGRAM CIRCULARS

Issued by the Chief Commissary Subsistence for Virginia, relative to purchase and Impressment of Brandy and Whiskey in Virginia.

(Copy.)

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, }
Subsistence Department, }
 OFFICE CH. COMMISSARY FOR VA., }
 Richmond, Oct. 4, 1864. }

CIRCULAR.

Our army being greatly in need, you will procure without delay, all brandy and whiskey in your district, from purchase, impressment and detailed farmers. Hunt it up. Act promptly and report quantity collected.

(Signed.) B. P. NOLAND, Maj. & Chf. C. S. for Va.

RICHMOND, Nov. 8, 1864.

CIRCULAR TELEGRAM.

Instruct your officers and agents that when parties will sell to the Government at schedule price one-half their brandy and whiskey, they will grant protection to market for the other half.

(Signed.) B. P. NOLAND, Maj. & Chf. C. S. for Va.

Official copy.—H. S. REYNOLDS, Capt. & A. C. S.
 Richmond, Va., Dec. 10, 1864.

(Copy.)

RICHMOND, Oct. 8th, 1864.

Maj. W. W. MORRISON, Goldsboro', N. C.:—Secure by purchase and impressment, without delay, as much brandy as possible, for use of army. Allow price in October Schedule. Tannahill directed to pay same in his district.

By order Commissary General.

(Signed.) J. C. ABRAMS, Capt. & A. C. S.

(Copy.)

RICHMOND, Oct. 8th, 1864.

Major E. M. LOWE, Charlotte, N. C.:—Secure by purchase and impressment, without delay, as much brandy as possible, for use of the army. Allow price to be fixed in October Schedule.

By order Commissary General.

(Signed.) J. C. ABRAMS, Capt. & A. C. S.

(Copy of Telegram sent in reply to one from Major Morrison asking instructions in relation to collection of brandy ordered Oct. 8th.)

RICHMOND, Oct. 18th, 1864.

Major W. W. MORRISON, Goldsboro', N. C.:—Rely on impressment and Schedule rates.

(Signed.)

S. B. FRENCH, Major & C. S.

NOVEMBER: 5th, '64.—Verbal order given Major Jas. Sloan, Greensboro', to secure all brandy possible for the army, by purchase or impressment.

LETTER FROM ROBERT T'ANNAHILL, MAJOR & C. S.

SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT, }
Petersburg, Va., October 23d, 1864. }

Maj. B. P. NOLAN, Ch. C. S. for Va., Richmond :

MAJOR :—The enclosed telegram explains itself.

Please ascertain of Dr. Johns, *himself*, who are his authorized agents for the purchase of brandy in my district, the rates he is paying, and transmit me the information. I have directed my agents to recognize no agent unless he has orders in writing, as there are so many persons speculating in the article under bogus orders. If the agents of the Medical Department are authorized to pay \$30 or the market price, the agent of this Department cannot buy at Schedule, as it is all for Government.

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,

ROBT. T'ANNAHILL,
Major & C. S.

P. S.—If Dr. Johns' agents are buying in good faith for his Department, I presume they pay detailed farmers same as others. This is wrong, of course. I shall see Gen. Lee's Medical Purveyor, and show him copy enclosed telegram, and arrange with him to stop the existing competition, if it exists, and shall also take the brandy mentioned if not all O. K.

On the above were the following endorsements :

Petersburg, Oct. 23, 1864.

R. T'ANNAHILL, Maj. & C. S.:—Ascertain from Dr. Johns who his agents are, the price he is paying for brandy, and give him information no agent recognized unless with orders in writing.

Telegram enclosed.

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OFFICE CHIEF C. S. FOR VA., }
Richmond, Oct. 26, 1864. }

Respectfully referred (through the C. G. S.) to the Surgeon General, at whose suggestion the purchase and impressment of brandy and whiskey were ordered to be made by the officers of this Department, in Virginia. They have been actively engaged in securing all they can, but are limited to the Schedule price, which is \$10, and it is respectfully requested that the agents of the Medical Department be also instructed to conform thereto.

B. P. NOLAND, Major & Chf. C. S. for Va.

BUREAU OF SUBSISTENCE, }
Richmond, October 31, 1864. }

Respectfully referred to the Surgeon General.

L. B. NORTHRQP, C. G. S.

S. G. OFFICE, Nov. 3, 1864.

Respectfully returned to the Commissary General.

The Medical Purveyors having agents engaged in procuring brandy, will be ordered to discontinue purchasing at \$30 per gallon, with the understanding that the Commissary General will instruct his agents to impress any brandy required for this Department.

By order of the Surgeon General.

THOS. H. WILLIAMS, Surg. C. S. A.

S. G. O.—Rec' Nov. 1st, 1864.

BUREAU OF SUBSISTENCE, }
Richmond, Nov. 5, 1864. }

Respectfully returned to Surgeon General, who is ordered to designate his agents for the purchase of brandy, and their localities, in order that the officers of this Bureau may be instructed to impress all that may be indicated by them.

L. B. NORTHRQP, C. G.

S. G. O., Nov. 8, 1864.

Respectfully returned to the Commissary General.

Surgeon E. W. JOHNS, Richmond, Va.

" JAS. T. JOHNSON, Charlotte, N. C.

" R. K. TAYLOR, Lynchburg, Va.

Ass't " W. B. ROBERTSON, Wytheville, Va.

were authorized and instructed to procure brandy for this Department.

By order of the Surgeon General.

THOS. H. WILLIAMS, Surg. C. S. A.

Rec'd S. G. O., (back), Nov. 8., 1864.

BUREAU OF SUBSISTENCE, }
 Richmond, 12th November, 1864. }

Respectfully referred to Chief C. S. for Virginia, who will instruct his officers and agents to impress such brandy as may be indicated by the Medical officers named in the endorsement of the Surgeon General, they furnishing funds with which to make payment.

By order C. G. S.

T. U. DUDLEY, JR., Major & C. S.

OFFICE CHIEF C. S. FOR VA., }
 Richmond, Nov. 16, 1864. }

Respectfully referred to Major Ro. Tannahill, C. S., for his information, and who will instruct his officers according to the orders of the C. G. S., and return this paper promptly to this office.

By order Chf. C. S. for Va.

H. S. REYNOLDS, Capt. & A. C. S.
 Office Chf. C. S., Petersburg, Nov. 29, 1864.

Respectfully returned to Maj. B. P. Noland, Chf. C. S. for Va.

ROBT. TANNAHILL, Maj. & Chf. C. S.

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